

****Portsmouth & District AGM 2023**

Venue: Avenue Tennis Club

Date: Thursday 9th March 2023

Attendees:

Barbara Wilkie (Chair), Michael Isaacs (Acting Chair and District League Secretary), Alan Best (Treasurer), Sue Foott (Acting Committee Secretary), Karen Downie (Committee Member), Carrie Bateman (Committee Member), Chris and Stuart Doherty (Swanmore), Florence Gimonet (JEM Tennis), Dawn Dewilde (Southsea), Caroline MacDowell, Richard Perkins (Seacourt), Gwen Isaacs, Maureen Parker (Stubbington), Trish Smart (Alverstoke), Sheridan Easton (Wellow), Robin Ellison (CourtX), Kate Gurl, Dick Nicholson (Fishbourne), Pepe Chisenga (Denmead), Sarah Gray (Warsash), Suzanna Troy, Vanessa Prosser (Chichester), Paul Whittenham (Avenue), Claire and Ivor Marsden (Steep), Ian Wilkie (Lee)

Chairman's Welcome

Michael Isaacs thanked those attending the meeting particularly given the weather conditions and formally welcomed Swanmore and Denmead to first live AGM and Steep who have rejoined the ladies league after a period of absence. He also acknowledged the retirement of the Alverstoke fixtures secretary Trish Smart who was attending her last AGM.

Apologies for absence

Lois Nash, Paula Fuge, Simon Baughan, Linda Jones,

2022 Minutes

Agreed

Matters Arising from 2022 Minutes

None

P&D Structure

Following the last AGM a number of individuals have come forward to assist in the running of the District which will ensure the long term future of the same. The new committee members Florence Gimonet, Sue Foott, Suzanna Troy, Paul Whittenham and Claire Keiditsch will work with the exiting committee all of whom are prepared to stand for re-election.

It is proposed that Florence will take responsibility for the mens leagues, Paula will continue with the ladies; Sue will run the mixed leagues and Suzanna the masters, the other committee members will step in to assist during periods of absence. This will ensure that no one individual is over-burdened with responsibility.

Given the changes clubs were requested to direct rescheduling information and emails to the appropriate new secretaries and not the generic email address. Members were also encouraged to assist the new league secretaries when submitting score cards.

Barbara Wilkie will be standing down as Chair but will be looking after the District's Social calendar. It is proposed that Michael Isaacs will become Chair and Alan Best will remain as Treasurer.

Election of Officers

Members were asked to vote on new structure and officers.

The motion as proposed by Barbara Wilkie and seconded by Stuart Doherty.

Agreed unanimously

Website development

Alan reported that work is required to update the website and automate as much of the process as possible.

The work required is to automate the various dates to avoid, ensuring teams travel home and away proportionately particularly having regard to the Isle of Wight.

Each phase of the work will cost £250 and the work will be done in 3 stages. It is anticipated that it will cost approx £1000 to future proof the website.

Treasurers Report

Alan Best provided an over view of the accounts and the anticipated spend which includes the provision of the website upgrade. He recommended the league entry costs for 2023 are increased to £6 per team with no increase in the affiliation fees. The increase is minimal and will cover anticipated increases in admin costs.

The Accounts and Entry fee recommendation was proposed by Dick Nicholson seconded by Paul Whittenham

Proposal agreed unanimously.

League Secretary's Report

Michael reported that notwithstanding the challenging winter most matches will be completed and he thanked captains and secretaries for ensuring the back log of matches reduced.

The Solent Cup

This is scheduled to be played on 15th April 2023 at Court X and at the moment the final line up of teams has yet to be determined.

Summer leagues

Michael reported that entries are 5 down on 2022 in the weekend league but up in the masters mid week league. The leagues have been structured to ensure that standards are comparable in each division, no more than 2 teams from same Club in the same division,

and Island matches scheduled to avoid excessive travel. Where there are issues teams have been spoken to.

General League Administrations - Rule Changes

Non-Weather-Related Changes

At present Clubs have 2 months following publication of the fixtures to make changes. One consequence this winter was that a limited number of matches were played in October resulting in a backlog which was compounded by the weather. To avoid this in future the Committee recommended that the two-month period be reduced to one month. Given fixtures are able to be played through March in the winter and September in the summer, the cut off for non-weather-related changes should be the 30th of April and 31st October each year.

Whilst changes could be made after that date this could only be with the approval of the opponents and they will be under no obligation to change the original fixture date unless for weather reasons. Further there should be no penalty to the team who did not request the date change.

There was significant debate about the rule change with some clubs proposing a stricter approach. Barbara Wilkie recommended that a vote be taken on the proposal as put forward by the Committee and the position reviewed again at the next AGM if the new rules do not resolve matters.

The proposal put forward was to reduce the period for re arranging matches to one month. If the match is re arranged outside of this period and not played the team who did not request the change of date will not be penalized and will be awarded the match.

Motion carried unanimously.

Weather Related Changes

The Committee recognizes there are occasions when despite teams travelling in good faith the weather conditions change rapidly and matches cannot proceed to the point where there is a result which is the completion of the first two rubbers (thus constituting a match result), It is appreciated the costs of travel may make re arrangement prohibitive.

The committee is recommending if the match cannot be played that the points are shared. They remain content for teams try to rearrange were possible but if because of the initial weather postponement through weather the match ultimately does not get played again there is the option to share the points.

If a match is rearranged and one team then cannot fulfill the fixture, the normal penalty applies.

Motion carried unanimously.

Qualifying Age for Masters

The proposal is to make the qualifying age for men and women in the Masters Leagues 50 as opposed to 45 for women. Given there are ladies aged between 45 and 50 already participating in the league it is agreed they can remain playing and should not be penalized by the rule change. However new players to the leagues must be of 50 years or above.

Motion carried unanimously.

Responsibility for Rearranging Postponed Matches

Responsibility for re arranging postponed matches rests with the home team, it is however recognized that sometimes there are delays in them providing opponents with confirmations/dates particularly at the start of the season.

It was recommended that both the home/away team captains liaise as soon as possible following the cancellation of a match to agree a new date. Responsibility will rest with both teams jointly to ensure postponed matches get rescheduled.

League Secretaries will check and prompt both captains if they spot long outstanding fixtures with no re arranged dates.

Champions Tie Break

The Committee sought to clarify the tie break rules for both normal and Champions tie break sets. In both cases if the score is even at 7 all or 9 all the margin of two clear points is required to win the relevant set.

Motion carried unanimously

Playing Up Rule

Some teams are finding it difficult to field players and the playing up rule is impacting on this. It was proposed to relax the rule to allow playing up twice; a third appearance will result in the player in question being team tied to the higher team. There was some debate from the floor about the merits of extending this or maintaining the restriction. However a vote was taken to allow a player playing for a "higher team" twice without being tied, and only on a third appearance would they not be able to drop down during that season. Motion carried.

Score Cards

Currently score cards should be submitted by both teams to enable the league secretaries to verify the score as sometimes there are errors in the adding up. There has been no problem with this but the league would be happy if both teams sign one score card and make clear it is joint to accept the card from the winning team. It was recommended and agreed the position would remain unchanged.

Club Coaches

A query was raised about coaches playing matches and it was agreed the position regarding coaching participation should remain unchanged.

Club Registration/WTN Number

The Committee recommends all Clubs register with the LTA if they have not already done so as the LTA are working to ensure countrywide registration of all playing places.

At present there is no capacity for league results to be automatically transferred to the LTA tournament software to allow players to register WTN points. The Committee is investigating the process by which this can be done and will circulate a guidance note on this to all Clubs once the position is clarified with the LTA.

Isle of Wight Ferry

The committee urged members to use the exclusive P&D discount offered by WightLink as this is monitored by the Ferry Company.

Portsmouth News

The league usually gets significant coverage and Clubs are reminded to let Alan have match reports and photos promptly if they want exposure. Photos will need to have players on left to right line up.

Awards Evening

This is scheduled for 26th October 2023.

AOB

Caroline asked whether ladies league format could be to play one club once per season, the home and away format remains unchanged as this has always been case in the winter.

Meeting closed at 21.30

**** Subject to approval at next AGM**